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AGRICULTURAL COOPERATION

LEGAL, ECONOMIC, AND ORGANIZATION INFORMATION COLLECTED BY THE BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS.
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MILK COOPERATIVE SURVIVES BANKRUPTCY PROCEEDINGS

The bankruptcy proceedings in connection with the Illinois-Missouri Cooperative Milk Producers' Association, East St. Louis, Ill., were brought to a close August 31, 1923, settlement having been made with the various creditors. Early in October a meeting held in behalf of the reorganization of the association was attended by more than 400 members of the old organization.

The expenses in connection with the bankruptcy proceedings amounted to over \$25,000, of which \$17,036.08 was court costs and fees. In addition to the disbursements made under the direction of the court, an advisory committee representing friends of the association and dairy-men raised approximately \$7,000 to help straighten out the financial affairs of the association. The Illinois Agricultural Association, in its efforts to save the association to the program of cooperation, deposited \$15,329.48 with the referee. The total amount of preferred claims was \$6,211.64. More than 1,700 producers who had not been paid for milk delivered, signed an agreement whereby their claims were not pressed in connection with the proceedings. The bankruptcy proceedings were begun December 1, 1922, and continued until August 31, 1923. During the nine months, assistance was given by the referee, representing the court; two receivers, also representing the court; a trustee; and the advisory committee of friends.

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MINNESOTA BUTTER-MARKETING PROGRAM IS EXPANDING

The selling campaign being developed by the Minnesota Cooperative Creameries Association, St. Paul, Minn., includes the creation of a demand for sweet-cream butter in the larger cities. It is proposed to make exclusive selling arrangements with dealers who will aid in introducing this type of butter and will push the product with their customers. The plans contemplate contracts with ten large distributors in New York City, five in Philadelphia, one each in Boston, Baltimore, Buffalo, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Washington, Rochester, New Haven, Columbus and Los Angeles. This butter will be put on the market under a special brand.

The association is arranging for a twice-a-week delivery service for supplying retail dealers in Minneapolis and St. Paul with quality butter, eggs and cheese.

NATIONAL MILK PRODUCERS ADOPT NEW PROGRAM

Hereafter it is to be the "National Cooperative Milk Producers' Federation," Washington, D. C., the word "cooperative" having been added at the fourth annual meeting in Pittsburgh, November 8 and 9. Following the changing of the name a plan for the reorganization of the federation was adopted. Henceforth directors are to be elected for one year instead of three; there are to be four groups of commodity directors and a group of directors at large. Fluid milk and cream; butter; and condensed, evaporated and powdered milk are to have three directors for each group, while cheese will be represented by two directors. There will be ten directors at large. All matters regarding specific commodities will be considered first in the commodity group and later referred with recommendations to the board of directors.

The federation took steps to bring about the establishment in the United States of an international institute of cooperation. It was proposed that as a beginning a summer conference be held and that a start be made toward the training of employees for cooperative organization by giving instruction regarding the theory, technique and historical development of the cooperative movement.

It was also decided to wage a campaign to bring about the re-direction of the teaching of economics in educational institutions so that the principles and spirit of cooperation will be clearly understood.

The officers of the federation for the coming year are: President, John D. Miller, Dairyman's League Cooperative Association, New York City; First Vice-President, Richard Pattee, New England Milk Producers, Boston, Mass; Second Vice-President, Harry Hartke, Cooperative Pure Milk Association, Cincinnati, Ohio; Treasurer, Frank P. Willits, Interstate Milk Producers' Association, Philadelphia, Pa., Secretary, Charles W. Holman, Washington, D. C.

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COOPERATIVE SPIRIT HAS SURVIVED MISFORTUNE

The New Baden Dairy Company, New Baden, Ill., was organized October 2, 1923, according to information furnished by the official paper of the Southern Illinois Milk Producers' Association.

This company is made up largely of the dairymen who since 1912 have formed the New Baden local of the Southern Illinois Milk Producers' Association. These dairymen have had their ups and downs. At one time the firm to which they were shipping milk failed and they lost \$6,500, at another time they accepted due bills for milk delivered over a three-months' period, these bills amounting to over \$10,000.

It is stated that the reason for the persistence of the cooperative idea is the regularity with which monthly meetings have been held and the high grade programs carried out at these meetings.

It is proposed that the new company shall purchase and operate the local milk plant.

OVER EIGHT THOUSAND FARMERS' BUSINESS ORGANIZATIONS

The United States Department of Agriculture has received reports from 8,135 farmers' business organizations, located in 48 states, and marketing more than 100 different commodities. In addition the Department has reports regarding approximately one thousand organizations which have gone out of business during the last ten years. Of the active associations reporting, 31% are engaged in the handling of grain, 21% in the marketing of dairy products, over 14% in the marketing of livestock, and over 11% in the marketing of fruits and vegetables.

Over 83% of all the associations reporting might be considered as commodity marketing organizations, that is, they are chiefly interested in the marketing of one commodity, or at most a few commodities. Over 6.4% of the associations are functioning as general selling agencies for their farmer members, handling, as best they can, the miscellaneous products turned over to them.

Of the total number of associations reporting, 850, or 10.5%, are engaged largely in collective purchasing in one form or another. About one-half of these purchasing associations are in the nature of cooperative stores of one kind or another, or cooperative fuel or lumber yards. Often a single association conducts several different enterprises.

The more important of the different kinds of associations, the number of each kind reporting, and the percentage that each number is of the total, will be found below:

Kind of Association	Number of Associations	Per Cent of Total
Handling or Marketing:		
Grain and Dry Beans	2,554	31.4
Dairy Products	1,709	21.0
Livestock	1,177	14.5
Fruits and Vegetables	970	11.8
Wool	93	1.2
Cotton and Cotton Products	80	.9
Nuts	47	.6
Poultry and Poultry Products	42	.5
Forage Crops	18	.2
Tobacco	13	.2
Miscellaneous Products*	58	.7
Miscellaneous Selling **	524	6.5
Collective Buying and Retailing***	850	10.5
Total	8,135	100.0

*Maple sirup, cane sirup, honey, broomcorn, forest products, seeds.

**Small quantities of a large number of products.

***Purchasing associations, cooperative stores, lumber yards, fuel yards, etc.

In the foregoing table the associations have been classed according to their principal line of business. Many of the smaller associations are conducting several different lines of activity, for example, operating a grain elevator and shipping livestock, or conducting a fuel or lumber yard. Not infrequently associations operating creameries also market poultry and eggs for their members.

Most of the commodity associations do more or less collective buying. In some cases the purchases run into the hundreds of thousands of dollars.

While 8,135 associations have already reported to the Department of Agriculture there are several thousand associations yet to be heard from. Although the final total figures will be materially increased, it is believed that the items making up the total will be in about the same relation to each other as above, and that the percentages given can be considered approximately correct, especially for the larger groups of associations.

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FIVE ASSOCIATIONS MARKETING RICE CROP

Five producer-owned and operated cooperative associations are marketing a large fraction of the rice produced in the United States. Three of these associations are located in Louisiana, one in Arkansas, and one in California. Three of the associations were formed in 1921, one in 1922, and one in August of 1923. The four associations reporting as to number of members had a total membership of 3,513. The associations, with dates of organization, number of members, and pounds of rice of the 1922 crop handled, are as follows:

Association	: Organized	: Number of	: Lbs. Rice
	:	: Members	: 1922 Crop
Arkansas Rice Growers Cooperative Association, Stuttgart, Ark.	: September 1921	: 1,031	:
Rice Growers' Association of California, Sacramento, Calif.	: October 1921	: 593	: 180,000,000
American Rice Growers' Association, Lake Charles, La.	: 1921	: 1,366	: *200,000,000
Louisiana Farm Bureau Rice Growers' Cooperative Assn., Crowley, La.	: September 1922	: 1,100	: 48,394,746
Farm Bureau River Rice Growers' Cooperative Association, Baton Rouge, La.	: August 1923	:	:

*Estimated.

FIVE FEDERATIONS HANDLE MOST OF CITRUS FRUITS SOLD COOPERATIVELY

Ninety-nine per cent of the citrus fruit marketed through farmer-owned or controlled organizations is handled by five federations consisting of 311 locals and 32 district, or sub-exchanges. Approximately one per cent of the citrus fruit sold cooperatively is handled by four independent associations. A total of 43,620 cars of citrus fruit of the 1921-22 crop was handled by the producer organizations.

Approximately 62% of the cars handled by the cooperatives were marketed through a single federation, 24.2% through a second federation, and 11% through a third. The remaining cars, less than 3%, were handled by the other federations and the independent associations. The fruit had an f.o.b. value of \$70,770,300.

The names of the active associations, the number of organizations in each federated group, the number of cars of citrus fruit handled by each group, and the value of the fruit, are given in the table below:

Name of Association	: Number : of : Locals:	: Total Number : of : Organizations*	: Cars : Handled	: Value : Estimated
California Fruit Growers' Exchange	: : 192:	: : 213**	: : 27,138	: : \$48,647,800
Mutual Orange Distributors: (Cal.)	: : 20:	: : 21	: : 5,000	: : 8,870,000
Florida Citrus Exchange..	: 79:	: 92***	: 10,572	: 12,062,648
Gulf Coast Citrus Exchange: (Ala.)	: : 12:	: : 13	: : 325	: : 443,000
Florida East Coast Growers' Association...	: : 8:	: : 9	: : 100	: : 177,400
Federations Total	: 311:	: 348	: 43,135	: \$70,200,848
Four Independent Ass'n...	: 4:	: 4	: 485	: 569,455
Grand Total	: 311:	: 352	: 43,620	: \$70,770,303

*Including overhead organization in each case.

**Including 20 district or sub-exchanges.

***Including 12 district or sub-exchanges.

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SIGNS TO PROMOTE COOPERATION

Each member of the Connecticut Milk Producers' Association, Hartford, Conn., is to be furnished with a membership sign, to be placed in a conspicuous position facing the highway, according to the latest issue of the bulletin issued by the association. The purpose of the signs is to show who are members of the association and thus help in the further development of fraternal feeling.

DES MOINES ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES MILK PRICE FOR NOVEMBER

A price of \$3.05 per hundred has been decided upon by the Des Moines Cooperative Dairy Marketing Association, Des Moines, Iowa, an organization for collective bargaining regarding milk prices. This price is higher than the price for August, September and October. The reasons given for the increase are as follows: "Present scarcity of milk, the increase in the cost of feeds, labor and value of dairy products, and in addition to cost and scarcity, the best control of the market that has ever existed."

With the present price of by-product milk this price will mean about \$2.90 to the producers. The association reports that the price of milk is 21% higher than last year, while the price of butter is 6% higher.

This association, which was formerly a stock company known as the Iowa Dairy Marketing Company, was organized in 1917 and reorganized in the spring of 1922 as a non-stock, non-profit, cooperative association under its present name. Business handled in 1921 amounted to \$500,000 and in 1922 to \$500,000. Net profits for 1922 amounted to \$2,579. The association has 780 members, all of whom are producers.

In a campaign for increased membership the association has offered prizes to its milk haulers as follows: A cash prize of \$5 to every hauler whose route is on a 100% basis by December 15. A first prize of \$10 and a second prize of \$5 for the route hauler who brings in the most memberships during the year 1923, up to December 15.

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MINNESOTA POTATO GROWERS PLAN TO FINISH CAMPAIGN JANUARY FIRST.

A strong effort is to be made by the Minnesota Potato Growers' Exchange to complete the membership campaign by January first, in order to save expense and also to give more time for preparing warehousing and financing facilities. Members are urged to assist in securing the signatures of their friends and neighbors. The membership now stands at 2,500 and the acreage already signed approximates 45,000 acres, with a goal of 174,000 by January first. The largest contract received is for 700 acres.

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LOUISIANA COTTON GROWERS ADVANCING SIXTY PER CENT OF VALUE

The Louisiana Farm Bureau Cotton Association, Shreveport, La., reports that 17,000 bales of cotton had been received early in October, with the rate of delivery increasing daily, and that little trouble is experienced with contract breakers. Cotton has been delivered by about 40% of the members. As soon as the cotton is graded advances amounting to 60% of the market value are paid to the growers, with a limit of \$75 a bale.

FEDERATION OF POTATO LOCALS CLOSES FIFTH YEAR

The "passing of the peace pipe" marked the opening of the fifth annual meeting of the Michigan Potato Growers' Exchange, at Cadillac, Mich., August 15 and 16, 1923. The pipe was passed to the mayor of the city by "Chief Petosky," who arrived in full costume at the head of a parade of 40 automobiles. The banquet held the first evening of the meeting was attended by 340 potato growers who represented the 109 locals which are the backbone of the exchange.

The manager of the exchange in his annual report stated that 2,922 cars of potatoes had been handled during the year ending July 31, 1923. Of this number 714 cars were of the "Chief Petosky Brand" and sold at a premium of 10¢ per hundred. The gross sales amounted to \$1,097,910. The organization had purchased for its members 663,000 sacks, 55,859 lbs. and 372 barrels of spraying material, 47,000 lbs. of salt, 5,120 rods of fencing, quantities of binder twine, shipping tags, seeds, coffee, flour, tires and tubes, and 13 potato graders.

The surplus of earnings for the year amounted to \$14,525. During the five years that the exchange has been functioning a total of \$60,192 has been returned to the local associations as patronage dividends. The affiliated locals have a membership that is in excess of 16,000.

The development of the exchange since its organization, August 3, 1918, with 23 affiliated locals, is indicated by the figures given below:

Year	: Number of	: Cars of	: Total	: Gross
	: Affiliated	: Potatoes	: Cars	: Sales
	: Locals	:	:	:
1st (1918-19)	: 52	: 2,113	: 2,227	: \$1,800,000
2nd (1919-20)	: 97	: 2,153	: 3,085*	: 4,815,000
3rd (1920-21)	: 119	: 3,250	: 3,622**	: - - - -
4th (1921-22)	: 128	: 2,439	: 2,520***	: 1,777,300
5th (1922-23)	: 109	: 2,922	: - - -	: 1,097,900

*Apples, 342 cars; hay, 174 cars; cabbage, 113 cars; etc.

**Rye, 120 cars; hay, 69 cars; apples, 56 cars; etc.

***Apples, 38 cars; celery, 19 cars; rye, 14 cars; etc.

The general manager in his report pointed out that there are 58 towns in the state each shipping 30 or more cars of potatoes annually in which there are no local associations. He urged an active organization campaign, and announced that hereafter credit would not be extended to locals which did not file with the exchange statements of resources and liabilities with details as to supplies on hand. He stressed the value of the five-year binding contract and prophesied that the day was near at hand when there would be a potato exchange that would be cooperative in form and nation-wide in scope. Announcement was made that schools of instruction were being planned to teach efficient handling of potatoes.

RED-TOP SEED GROWERS CLEANING AND SELLING OWN SEED

A new warehouse of the Egyptian Seed Growers' Exchange, Flora, Ill., is running three mills ten hours a day to clean the red-top seed delivered by its 800 members, and will run at the same rate for the next three months, it is stated by officials of the exchange. The warehouse is the property of a subsidiary organization, the Red-Top Seed Growers' Warehouse Company, and is used to store a large part of the pooled seed of the exchange. The building is 50 by 100 feet in size, with 14-ft. eaves, constructed of red tile and covered with steel sheeting. A second warehouse and cleaning plant is located at Geff.

The exchange started in business late last year and contracted with certain warehouses to clean the seed. It also contracted with a large seed dealer to handle the sales. A large part of the crop was held over and since the contract expired July first the exchange has been making its own sales and a considerable quantity of seed has been moved out at satisfactory prices.

Application has been made to the St. Louis Intermediate Credit Bank for a loan of \$100,000 to be used in advances for seed delivered. A loan of \$40,000 was secured last year but only \$4,800 was used.

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ASSOCIATION PAYS MEMBERS SIX PER CENT ON CAPITAL FURNISHED

Advance-fund certificates amounting to \$481,333 are being issued to members of the Staple Cotton Cooperative Association, Greenwood, Miss., to cover the retains from the gross returns from the sale of the 1922 cotton crop. These retains, amounting to 2% of the gross proceeds of sales, are deducted annually and constitute the advance fund which serves as a substitute for capital stock. As the sale of each season's crop is concluded, advance-fund certificates are issued to the members in the amount that would otherwise have gone to each because of cotton sold. The certificates bear interest at the rate of 6% annually. The advance fund now approximates one million dollars.

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COTTON ASSOCIATION SOUNDS OUT PUBLIC OPINION

Information collected by the local managers of the Staple Cotton Cooperative Association, Greenwood, Miss., from nonmembers, banks, merchants, cotton buyers and others, during the season of 1923, indicates that 13.5% of the people in the territory served by the association are enthusiastic over the service being rendered. Of the people interviewed 54.3% had a favorable attitude toward the association, 24% were indifferent; 6.8% had an unfavorable attitude, and 1.4% of the people were hostile.

MAINE POTATO GROWERS FORM WAREHOUSE CORPORATIONS

The thirty district associations of the Maine Potato Growers' Exchange, Caribou, Me., have been grouped into seven warehousing districts. In each district a subsidiary corporation, organized with capital stock, has been created for the purpose of organizing and operating warehouses for the efficient handling and grading of potatoes. While each warehouse company is a separate corporation with its own board of directors and officers, the operation of the seven warehouses will be under the direction of a general manager and seven district superintendents.

Each subsidiary organization will issue capital stock and income bonds to be sold to the investing public, and common stock to the member growers. A deduction, not to exceed 10¢ a bushel, will be made from all potatoes handled for the purpose of creating a fund for the retirement in five annual payments of the preferred stock and bonds. Common stock will be issued to the growers to cover the deductions. It is expected that at the end of five years both the preferred stock and the bonds will have been retired and the producers will be the only persons with equities in the several warehousing properties.

The seven warehousing companies are listed below with the amount of investment securities to be issued by each:

Subsidiary Corporations	Preferred stock:	Serial Bonds
	:	:
Caribou District Warehousing Corporation :	\$ 820,000	: \$410,000
Ashland District Warehousing Corporation :	1,000,000	: 500,000
Presque Isle District Warehousing Corp. :	600,000	: 300,000
Fort Fairfield District Warehousing Corp.:	1,000,000	: 500,000
Houlton District Warehousing Corporation :	300,000	: 400,000
Mars Hill District Warehousing Corporation:	600,000	: 300,000
Fiscataquis Valley District Warehousing Corp.:	200,000	: 100,000

Plans of the exchange provide for an early pool and a seasonal pool, the former to cover about one month and to include the potatoes harvested early in the season; the seasonal pool to include the remainder of the commercial crop.

The first annual field day of the exchange was observed August 31 by a visit to the experimental farm at Presque Isle, conducted co-operatively by the U. S. Department of Agriculture and the Maine Experiment Station. More than 2,000 were in attendance.

The seed department of the exchange planned and carried out a tour of four days, a caravan of automobiles starting July 30 from the most northern point of the potato district and finishing at the most southern point. The purposes of the tour were to give the membership an opportunity to observe the work of other seed growers and compare notes, also to give representatives of southern seed purchasing areas an opportunity to see the fields of members and observe the type of seed procurable. It is hoped to make the seed tour an annual event.

IDAHO FALLS POTATO GROWERS ISSUE ANNUAL REPORT.

Five hundred thirty-five cars of potatoes were shipped during the 1922-23 season by the Idaho Falls Potato Growers, Idaho Falls, Idaho. The association was incorporated on March 31, 1922, possibly the first organization effected under the Idaho cooperative marketing law, and its fiscal year begins with July 1. Handling of potatoes was begun September 1, 1922. Arrangements were made with two sales agencies, one to handle the shipments going east and the other those going west, on a consignment basis. This plan proved very unsatisfactory and the dealers were persuaded to permit the association to do its own selling. The manager recommends that this plan be adopted in the future, also that the pooling system be adopted. The association has 254 members and on June 1, 1923, had an actual net worth of \$16,445. A reserve fund now amounts to \$3,745. Organization expenses amounted to over \$3,300.

The president of the association at the first annual meeting said among other things, "We have arrived at the point where we are under obligations to no man and what we have accomplished we have as farmers done ourselves, and we can stand with our heads erect and show the world that we can do our own business if we so desire."

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AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT LOSES MONEY ON FRUIT POOLS

Fruit pools conducted by the Australian Government during the last three years have resulted in heavy losses and the fruit industry is in a disorganized condition, according to a consular report dated August 15, 1923. The loss to the Commonwealth will probably be £492,000, the figures for 1921 being £75,000; for 1922, £227,000; and for 1923, £180,000. The estimated loss exceeds the amount paid the growers by £155,048. It is believed that new markets must be developed if the fruit industry is to be revived and that this can be done only by an organized body representing the whole trade and assuming the responsibility for standardizing and marketing. The government is considering how this may best be accomplished.

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QUEENSLAND TO HAVE COOPERATIVE MEAT PACKING COMPANY

According to a recent consular report from Melbourne, Australia, a company is being formed to be known as the Queensland Stockowners' Cooperative Meat Works, Limited. The purpose of the proposed company is to establish cooperative meat works and abattoirs for slaughtering, freezing, chilling and canning all classes of meats, and the manufacture of by-products. The new association, which is to be capitalized at £250,000, also proposes to deal in live stock and to carry on wholesale and retail meat business in Australia and other countries.

OVER A MILLION DOLLARS PAID TO NEW YORK FRUIT GROWERS

During the fiscal year ending May 31, 1923, the fruit sales of the Western New York Fruit Growers' Cooperative Packing Association, Inc., Rochester, N. Y., amounted to \$1,307,448. The principal commodities handled, the quantity of each, and the approximate returns to growers, were as follows:

Fruit	:	Quantity	:	Net Proceeds
Apples	:	1,320,000 bu.	:	\$1,002,000
Peaches	:	189,700 "	:	67,400
Pears	:	200,000 "	:	147,700
Prunes and Plums	:	31,000 "	:	24,500
Grapes	:	100,000 lbs.	:	2,500

The total payments to growers amounted to \$1,244,400. The deductions from gross sales were \$563,018. The largest single item among the deductions was one of \$205,920 for storage. Another item of considerable size was \$87,527 for freight, detention and demurrage.

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MISSISSIPPI COTTON ASSOCIATION HAS NINETEEN THOUSAND MEMBERS

Nineteen thousand growers are now included in the membership of the Mississippi Farm Bureau Cotton Association, Jackson, Miss., and deliveries of cotton are increasing steadily. Contacts with the members are maintained through the Field Service Department whose duties include informing the members regarding the work of the association; securing new members; collecting local information; encouraging the growing of better varieties of cotton; and organizing community and county locals. The territory has been divided into eight districts and a manager placed in charge of each to carry out the work of the Field Department.

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EQUITY UNION EXCHANGE MAKES ANNUAL REPORT

Sales amounting to \$212,043 are reported by the Equity Union Exchange, Yuma, Colo., for the year ending June 30, 1923, while net profits amounted to \$5,364. Besides wheat, rye, corn, oats, cane and millet, the exchange handled coal, flour, meal, twine, salt, tankage and hogs. Fruit handled resulted in a loss of \$7.80. Net worth of the association is given as \$53,132; capital stock outstanding amounts to \$31,350, "leaving a comfortable balance in both the surplus and undivided profits account." Buildings and equipment are valued at \$22,018. A station is also operated at Hyde.

JAPAN TO HAVE CENTRAL CREDIT INSTITUTE FOR COOPERATIVES

Japan has about 14,000 cooperative societies with a membership of 3,500,000 according to an article in the International Cooperative Bulletin for October. Of this number 12,000 are credit, or partly credit, societies, holding deposits amounting to approximately 250,000,000 yen, and making advances for 200,000,000 yen. (Par value of the yen equals 49.35¢.) An act to establish a Central Credit Institute for these cooperative societies was promulgated in April of this year, following a recommendation from the cooperative congress held in 1922 that such an institute be established as it was essential to the development of the societies.

The Central Credit Institute is to be located at Tokyo and is to have a capital of 30,000,000 yen, one-half of which will be contributed by the government and the other half will be sold to cooperative societies in shares of 100 yen each. The institute will advance funds to cooperative unions and other members societies, receive deposits, discount bills, and undertake exchange business.

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LOUISIANA TRUCK GROWERS FORM MARKETING AGENCY

The organization and incorporation of the Louisiana Farm Bureau Truck Growers' Exchange was completed early in October by growers representing 14 local associations in six parishes. Headquarters of the exchange will be located at Baton Rouge, but sales will be conducted from Hammond until the permanent office can be established.

The exchange went on record as endorsing a centralized accounting system for all the farm bureau associations and exchanges, and the secretary of the farm bureau was instructed to work out the details of such a system to include the truck growers, the strawberry growers, the potato exchange, and the Lespedeza seed growers.

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FIRST POOL OF CLAYSON GRAPEFRUIT CLOSED.

The first pool of Clayson grapefruit was closed October 15 by the Arizona Citrus Growers' Company, Phoenix, Ariz. The pool lasted nearly three weeks. About 21,000 boxes of fruit were picked and 31 carloads were shipped, besides many smaller shipments. Last season 22 cars were shipped and 13 cars the preceding season. As a large portion of this year's crop was undersized this fruit still remains on the trees. A number of cars are still on the road but prices are expected to average a little more than two cents per pound, as compared with 3-1/3 cents last year.

DAIRYMEN'S LEAGUE EMPLOYS A WOMAN TO LEAD WOMEN

A woman with training as an agricultural service worker has been added to the staff of the organization department of the Dairymen's League Cooperative Association, New York City, for the purpose of interesting women in the work of the association. Mrs. Vera McCrea, who has been selected for this new line of work, expects not only to interest women in what the association is doing but to make them realize that the League is more than a great commercial organization, that it is a movement among farm men and women in behalf of better economic conditions and a happier and fuller life for themselves and their children.

Mrs. McCrea was born on a farm, attended a country school, a village high school, and New York State university where she specialized in home economics, and later attended Columbia University. During the World War she was engaged in food conservation work, and since the war has been working with women in rural sections. As manager of a county home bureau she organized 43 home-bureau groups with a membership of 1,000 farm women.

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TOBACCO WAREHOUSES REPORTING LARGE RECEIPTS

Tobacco warehouses in the old belt of Virginia and Western Carolina received more than two million pounds of tobacco on the opening day, October 9. On October 20, 6,583,292 pounds had been received at these warehouses, 13,940,726 pounds in Eastern North Carolina, and 32,477,932 pounds in South Carolina, making a total for the association on that date of 53,002,078 pounds. Much of this is high-grade tobacco. The highest advance recorded was \$32.50 per 100 for 105 pounds of wrappers, the next best advance was \$25 per 100 for 650 pounds of wrappers, while a number of other growers received more than \$20 per 100 as a first payment.

Six hundred fifty new members were received in the association between October 1 and October 26.

Announcement is made by officials that the operating cost of the association for the first year for handling 163,000,000 pounds of tobacco, was \$1.56 per 100 pounds, including salaries and all expenses.

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NINETY-FIVE PER CENT SIGN-UP THE GOAL OF TOBACCO GROWERS

"Every county should be at least 95% signed up" is the slogan for the membership drive in the dark tobacco section. Public mass meetings in every county seat, under the auspices of the Dark Tobacco Growers' Cooperative Association, Hopkinsville, Ky., were scheduled for November 3.

COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION CONDUCTS AUCTIONS AMONG BUYERS

Eight thousand calves, yearlings, and two-year-olds belonging to members of the Highland Hereford Breeders' Association, Marfa, Tex., were sold direct to Corn Belt farmers for feeding purposes at three auctions in the Corn Belt during October. These auctions which were conducted by the association were held at Decatur, Ill., Kansas, Ill., and Indianapolis, Ind. At the Decatur sale the steer calves and yearlings brought from 7-1/2¢ to 8¢ a pound, while at Kansas and Indianapolis the sales were on the basis of 8-1/2¢ to 9¢ a pound. The heifers and two-year-old horned steers sold lower. Ninety-five per cent of the cattle sold at Kansas were bought by men whose farms were within driving distance.

The functions performed by this cooperative Association are those of producing high-grade feeder cattle, sorting and delivering them to selected localities in the Corn Belt, and selling them at auction to the farmers. It is the practice of the association to produce only well-bred Herefords of a good beef type. At time of shipment any inferior animals are culled out and sent to the stock-yard markets, so that only animals that are uniform in size, quality and color, and are in good condition, are forwarded to the auction sales. These sales are announced sufficiently far in advance to permit all prospective buyers to attend.

At Decatur and Kansas temporary yards were built on the outskirts of the towns, which arrangement gave the buyers an excellent opportunity to inspect the animals before purchasing.

Prior to the dates of the auctions the president of the association traveled 2,500 miles by automobile interviewing farmers who had purchased Highland Herefords at previous sales. In addition to obtaining information regarding former purchases, he advised prospective buyers relative to the auctions scheduled for 1923.

The advantages of this form of cooperative marketing have been summarized about as follows: The cattlemen produce a type and grade of animals which especially meets the demand for animals for feeding purposes; the cost of delivering the cattle from Texas to the Corn-Belt farms is less than if the cattle were shipped to a central market and re-shipped; the cattle are also less likely to become stale, as they come direct from pasture with the least possible delay. Both the Texas cattleman and the Corn-Belt farmer are concerned in seeing that the animals develop uniformly and eventually sell at a profit, as future business depends upon a satisfactory result to both parties.

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OKLAHOMA WHEAT GROWERS ORGANIZED IN LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS

Two hundred twenty-five locals have been organized in 35 counties by the Oklahoma Wheat Growers' Association, Enid, Okla. The largest of these local associations is that at Okarche which has a membership of nearly 300. The local is the connecting link between the member and the administrative officers of the State-wide association.

FINAL SETTLEMENT FOR SHORT-STAPLE COTTON IN NORTH CAROLINA

Final settlement for all short-staple cotton of the 1923 crop has been made by the North Carolina Cotton Growers' Cooperative Association, Raleigh, N. C. A small amount of long-staple cotton still remains unsold. Settlement for this type will be made as soon as final sales are completed.

Total receipts of cotton by the association amounted to 135,842 bales, of which 125,187 were short staple and 10,655, less than 6%, were long-staple cotton. The initial advance at time of delivery was \$50 a bale, another flat advance of \$25 a bale was made in December, followed by a third advance of four cents a pound in April, and a fourth of three cents in June, amounting in all to about 22 cents a pound. The final settlement brings the price on short-staple cotton to 24-1/2¢ a pound.

This association was incorporated in February, 1922, and the season just closed is its first year of operation. The membership stands at 31,892. The directors of the association have decided to increase the advance payments for the present crop to \$70 a bale for bales of 500 pounds or more.

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ARGENTINA HAS NATIONAL COOPERATIVE LIVESTOCK ASSOCIATION

The organization of a national livestock cooperative association for the Argentine Republic was completed on August 14, according to a consular report issued on September 10.

The association, known as "Co-operative Ganadera Nacional," is made up of cattle breeders and is incorporated for thirty years with the privilege of extension. The objects are to protect the interests of the industry and to market livestock and livestock products to better advantage.

Power is granted the association to buy and sell beef cattle, sheep and pigs; to slaughter livestock and to process and sell the products and by-products of such animals; to promote the opening up of new foreign markets; to endeavor to improve and cheapen transportation; and to export live cattle, meat, hides, wool, and other animal products.

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EGGS THE PRINCIPAL COMMODITY SOLD

The monthly sales of the New Hampshire Cooperative Marketing Association, Inc., Manchester, N. H., are nearly \$25,000. A statement issued by the association shows that the sales for September were as follows: Eggs, \$16,202; wool, \$618; apples and potatoes, \$6,147; miscellaneous, \$1,494. The sales for the first nine months of the calendar year amounted to \$265,850, as compared with \$257,881 for the same period in 1922.

ONE HUNDRED SUITS FOR BREACH OF CONTRACT

More than one hundred suits have been started by the Burley Tobacco Growers' Cooperative Association, Lexington, Ky., against members who have failed to live up to their contracts regarding the delivery of tobacco. These cases were instituted in the lower courts of Kentucky, Indiana and Ohio.

According to statements made by the association, in a recent case in Grant County, Kentucky, wherein the regularity of the 75% sign-up of the tobacco acreage of 1920 was questioned, the court held this defense without merit in view of the evidence and directed the jury to return a verdict for the association. It recovered damages to the amount of \$1,500, and also an attorney fee of \$50.

In the Shelby Circuit Court of Kentucky, the constitutionality of the Bingham Marketing Act of 1922 was unsuccessfully attacked in a case in which the association obtained an injunction against a member for violating his contract. The court at Madison, Indiana, recently enjoined two members from breaching the marketing contracts involved.

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LIVESTOCK TERMINAL SELLING AGENCY FOR KENTUCKY

A survey has been made at Lexington, Ky., for yards for the Farmers' Union Cooperative Stockyards Company which was incorporated July 28, 1923. As soon as the yards are completed the Farmers' Union Cooperative Sales Company, which has been in operation since May 15, 1922, will take over the operation of the yards. During the last seventeen months the sales company has handled a business amounting to approximately one and one-half million dollars. The new enterprise will be conducted as a strictly cooperative business.

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KENTUCKY TOBACCO ASSOCIATIONS OPERATE JOINT RECEIVING STATIONS

The tobacco cooperatives in Kentucky are cooperating in the matter of conducting joint receiving stations in the border counties between the sections producing the burley and the dark leaf types of tobacco. This policy of joint operation means less expense for both the Burley Tobacco Growers' Cooperative Association and the Dark Tobacco Growers' Cooperative Association.

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COOPERATIVE SELLING AGENCY FOR LIVESTOCK AT PITTSBURGH

The thirteenth terminal livestock selling agency to be established under the auspices of the National Livestock Producers' Association, began business at the Pittsburgh stockyards on October 5 under the name of the Pittsburgh Cooperative Commission Association.